

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12941 251439Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO FAS USDA WASHDC
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AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 12941

24AL: CERP SECTION D; IN-8060

FROM AGATT FOR COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS AND RECORDS

PASS PARKER, ESCS
BOMBAY FOR AG OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: SOUTHWEST MONSOON

1. MONSOON ACTIVITY SLACKENED DURING WEEK ENDING AUGUST 23.
WEATHER ZONES RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL
DECLINED TO 19 OUT OF 35, FOUR LESS THAN PRECEDING WEEK.
EXCEPTIONS WERE BAY ISLANDS, ASSAM AND ADJOINING STATES,
NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL, SOUTHERN BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH,
HARYANA, PUNJAB, EAST MADHYA PRADESH, COASTAL AND SOUTHWEST
MAHARASHTRA, SOUTHWEST ANDHRA PRADESH AND TAMIL NADU, WHERE
RAINFALL WAS FROM 20 TO 80 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL.

2. BARRING NORTHERN PARTS OF WEST BENGAL (MARGINALLY
DEFICIENT), CUMULATIVE RAINFALL SITUATION TO AUGUST 23,
WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL OVER ENTIRE COUNTRY.
WEATHER ZONES WHICH RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL
PRECIPITATION ACCOUNTED FOR 99 PERCENT OF TOTAL KHARIF
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CEREAL PRODUCTION (COMPARED TO 92 PERCENT IN COMPARABLE
PERIOD OF 1977) USING DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF PRODUCTION
DURING 1970-71 AS A BASE.

3. FOLLOWING DRY WEATHER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, GUJARAT
STATE RECEIVED ABOVE NORMAL RAINS (EAST PLUS 174 PERCENT
AND WEST PLUS 133 PERCENT) DURING WEEK UNDER REVIEW. MOST

OBSERVERS FEEL RAINS ARRIVED IN TIME TO REVIVE CROPS
BUT SOME REDUCTION IN YIELDS COULD OCCUR.

4. PARTS OF WEST BENGAL, BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH AND
PUNJAB CONTINUED TO EXPERIENCE FLOODS DURING THE WEEK.
DURATION OF FLOODING IN CURRENT SEASON APPEARS LONGER
THAN IN SOME EARLIER YEARS. A PRECISE QUANTITATIVE
APPRAISAL OF TOTAL CROP DAMAGE CAUSED BY FLOODS IN
THESE AREAS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. IT IS GENERALLY
BELIEVED THAT KHARIF CROP PROSPECTS IN THESE STATES
HAVE NOT BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

5. CURRENTLY, KHARIF CROP PROSPECTS FOR COUNTRY AS A
WHOLE IS RATED VERY GOOD. AGATT OFFICE CONTINUES
BELIEVE 1978-79 KHARIF CROP COULD EXCEED 78 MILLION
METRIC TONS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR'S ESTIMATE OF
AROUND 77 MILLION METRIC TONS.
GOHEEN

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